The past year has been one of unusual prosperity both in the Spiritual and temporal affairs of the Roman Catholic Church in this Country. The Committee and the Society have been duly informed from Month to Month of the important movements which have occupied its attention Consequently it is unnecessary now to give details.

The National Council during its Sessions at Balto. in the Spring of last year constituted an additional Arch Bishopric & Several Bishopics, besides transacting much business of a minor character. The enactments of this Council are of no authority until confirmed by the Pope and College of Cardinals at Rome.

This approval has been granted to all their decisions of importance. The pastoral letter issued by this Council is worthy of note to those who would be informed of the Spirit and tendency of these institutions in our midst. That this people by her laity - and even the female portion of the laity, as well as by the prelatical functionaries of her establishment have done and are doing a great work for the progress of Society and the amelioration of the religious Condition of our land Cannot be denied.

Let us in exemplification of this position glance at one phaze of the broad, Charitable and Catholic policy they pursue, and by means of which they are establishing themselves in the favor of every Community and rearing for themselves a fortress in the hearts of the unprejudiced that grows with their growth & Strengthens with their Strength.

We allude to that vast and most effective engine of success the Supervision of the Sick, the unfortunate and the afflicted of the Community under the immediate and actual agency of the Church.

Practising the Spirit of the good Samaritan and joining thereto the explicit injunction of our Blessed Lord "Go thou and do likewise" they have among them an order of females, a Sisterhood whose sole business it is to Employ themselves in Missions of Love and Mercy to the distressed. The bed of pain and languishing, the burning couch of fever and the loathsome retreat of every contagious epidemic are the fields in which they delight to labor and where they win golden results for the cause they have espoused.

The wan and wasted hospital patient finds a special appropriateness in the term Sister of Mercy.

Angels of goodness and shining examples of the religion they profess they preach sermons more effective on the minds of most men, by the exhibition of a meek and quiet and Charitable demeanor, than could result from thoughts that glow and words that burn. Adopting the Bible rule of charity, so far as their means allow they admit to their sick wards not only the professed Romanist, but the suffering of every denomination: and so assiduous and faithful are the attentions there bestowed that it is often the case that patients entering as revilers and contemners return not only silenced but on the other hand zealous champions of what formerly they so bitterly denounced.

Holding that to his people God has committed the care of the poor. they have an organization for this purpose more general and complete than any that we are aware of connected with what ~~is~~ ~~the exclusively~~ termed the Evangelical party. Did our time and your patience permit we might cite the daily occurrences of any of our large Cities. for it is there alone, in this Country - in those crowded and busy haunts of men, that want and destitution stalk abroad at Midday and hold high Carnival during the Silence of the night it is there alone, that we meet the pale and haggard Countenance of an unearthly misery that we witness the display of living Lazar house scenes and hear the painful and heart touching entreaties of those who are born, live and die without a gleam of sunshine to gladden their gloomy journey to the grave. We could take you from the Hospital to the Infirmary - from the Infirmary to the hovel from the hovel to the Cellar and to the Garret of disease and at every point we would be welcomed by the presence of the Ministering Angel of Mercy. She has been there before us - the aching head, the throbbing temples the agitated mind and the pain racked body have all been alleviated Soothed and bathed by her fair soft hands - and all the repulsive and disgusting duties of a Sick ward are discharged by her in uncomplaining meekness. The least part of her mission has been the Care of the body, for with a Zeal unabated by the greatness of her labors and an ardor kept glowing by the instances of her success. She quietly and faithfully leads her Charge from the dark and bitter

hours of the present to brighter and happier days to come and pointing him to the Cross she teaches him to find there a Balm for every wound and a cordial for every fear.

"Joy to the desolate, Light of the Straying,
"Hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure,
"Here speaks the Comforter, in mercy Saying
"Earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot cure".

It is too painfully evident that in this respect the Romish Ch. is far very far in advance of other denominations, that she at least is partially awake to this important trust. While protestants are yet wrapped in a most criminal indifference. They have withdrawn themselves very much from the practical field into a rigid and deadening orthodoxy and as they have retired the Spirit of ~~the~~ Gospel Charity has become chilled until there now exists but a tithe of that ~~healthy~~ healthy vitality which was a characteristic of the primitive church.

From this zeal and policy of the Romanist we can draw instructive lessons; and a closer view of their practise in this Country would tend greatly to diminish the acrimony of our feelings and give a less harsh and more charitable shade to our opinions. Much of the bitterness with which we are accustomed to contemplate this Communion is no doubt the result of education. Our minds have been unduly biased before having enjoyed an examination for themselves, but this will not justify the bigotry and blind zeal which some among us evince against this portion of God's people. We have seen in our midst, yea here in this orthodox, Presbyterian very charitable enquiring Society manifestations of exclusiveness, excommunication and persecution that would if unchecked soon result in an oppression and intolerance more relentless and cruel than that of the Inquisition in its palmiest days. These things ought not so to be. Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and we must give credit even to our enemies when credit is due.